

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, GW

SUBJECT: INMARSAT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

REF: A. LONDON 11768; B. BONN 12945

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES APPROACH OUTLINED REFTEL A SHOULD BE MADE AND APPRECIATES BONN'S WILLINGNESS TO DO SO. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED AS REQUESTED.

2. THE INMARSAT CONFERENCE WILL HOLD THIRD SESSION SEPTEMBER 1-3 IN LONDON AND IN OUR OPINION CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SATELLITE ORGANIZATION (INMARSAT). THE INMARSAT AGREEMENTS PROBABLY WILL BE OPENED FOR SIGNATURE
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WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE CLOSE OF THE CONFERENCE.

FOLLOWING THE INTELSAT MODEL, THEY INCLUDE AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (CONVENTION) AND AN OPERATING AGREEMENT, THE LATTER TO BE SIGNED BY GOVERNMENTS OR THEIR DESIGNATED ENTITIES WHICH WILL ASSUME FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND OPERATING RESPONSIBILITIES ON BEHALF OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION. THE AGREEMENTS WILL ENTER INTO FORCE 60 DAYS AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH STATES REPRESENTING 95 PER CENT OF THE INITIAL INVESTMENT SHARES HAVE BECOME PARTY TO THE CONVENTION. HOWEVER IF THE AGREEMENTS HAVE NOT ENTERED INTO FORCE WITHIN 36 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH THEY

WERE OPENED FOR SIGNATURE, THEY WILL NOT ENTER INTO FORCE.

3. IN ORDER THAT THE PERIOD PRIOR TO ENTRY INTO FORCE, WHICH REALISTICALLY IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE LESS THAN 24-30 MONTHS, MAY BE USED TO CONSIDER THE TECHNICAL PARAMETERS OF A MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM AND TO EXAMINE CERTAIN INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE ORGANIZATION ITSELF, THE SECOND SESSION OF THE INMARSAT CONFERENCE ESTABLISHED A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD MEET DURING THE PERIOD PRIOR TO ENTRY INTO FORCE.

4. THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING IN JANUARY 1977 IF BY DECEMBER 1, 1976 14 COUNTRIES OR THEIR DESIGNATED ENTITIES HAVE ADVISED THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF IMCO THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND TO SHARE ITS COSTS ON A PRO RATA BASIS. THE TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF THE COMMITTEE ARE NOT TO EXCEED \$2 MILLION OVER ITS LIFETIME. (THE IMCO COUNCIL HAS PROPOSED TO THE THIRD SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE THAT IT ESTABLISH NOVEMBER 1, 1976 AS THE DEADLINE FOR INFORMING THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF AN INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE, AND IT IS PROBABLE THE CONFERENCE WILL AGREE TO THE CHANGE.) IF 14 COUNTRIES HAVE NOT INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE BY THE DATE ESTABLISHED, THEN THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WILL BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE FIRST PRACTICABLE DATE AFTER THE REQUISITE 14 STATEMENTS OF INTENTION ARE RECEIVED.

5. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE PERIOD PRIOR TO
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ENTRY INTO FORCE SHOULD BE USED TO UNDERTAKE TO THE LARGEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE THE STUDIES WHICH ARE REQUISITE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM. ACCORDINGLY, WE SUPPORTED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (AND RECALL THE FRG DEL DID LIKEWISE), AND WE INTEND TO PARTICIPATE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE REQUISITE STUDIES CAN BE CARRIED OUT MOST EFFECTIVELY IF THE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MOST LIKELY ULTIMATELY TO JOIN INMARSAT

PARTICIPATE IN THEIR DESIGN, EXECUTION AND EVALUATION.
BEARING IN MIND THE FRG'S EXTENSIVE MARITIME INTERESTS AND
IT'S TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY GENERALLY, WE WOULD HOPE THE
FRG WILL CONTRIBUTE FULLY TO THE WORK OF THE PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE. HABIB

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